

The Hartford Restaurant Group Testimony

March 1, 2010

Raised Bill 270 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Regional Policy on the Prohibition of Certain Gifts from Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Companies to Health Care Providers

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Phil Barnett and I am a partner in The Hartford Restaurant Group, which consists of Vaughn's Public House, Agave, TD Homer's and the five Wood n Taps in Connecticut. I am also the Legislative Committee Chair for the Connecticut Restaurant Association. I am here today to express our concerns with Raised Bill 270.

Our restaurants are casual dining establishments, most of which have private dining rooms and are therefore, a natural choice for many pharmaceutical and medical device representatives to provide meals to health care professionals. These meals are often lunches or modest dinners and not extravagant purchases in any way. This is an essential piece of the revenue stream for our business.

The Hartford Restaurant Group estimates about \$75,000 per year in revenue due to the meals purchased by pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing companies for health care providers. Some of these orders are brought to the health care providers' office and some are in our restaurants. The Hartford Restaurant Group, along with many other restaurants and caterers throughout Connecticut, rely on this business each year. We understand the goals of this legislation but also want to express to you that there may be some serious unintended consequences to the already struggling hospitality industry in our state.

Thank you for your time.